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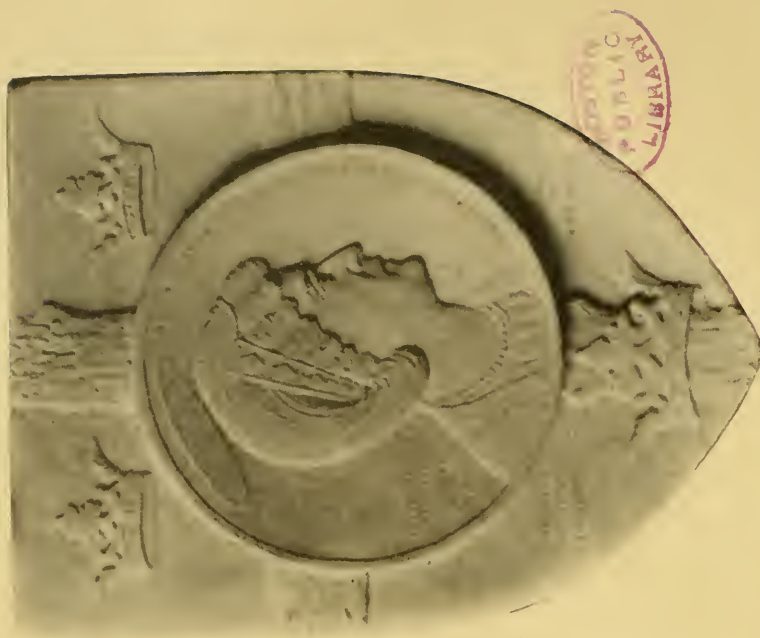
GIVEN BY

Juliette Arden



HEAD OF CONSTANTINE THE GREAT, GRANDSON
OF KING COEL, TAKEN FROM A ROMAN COIN, ON
BACKGROUND SHOWING INSIGNIA ON THE BAN-
NERS OF THE EMPEROR AFTER HE BECAME A
CHRISTIAN

*Bas-Relief Loaned by the Sculptor
Mr. James E. Kelly*



HEAD OF THE EMPRESS, FLAVIA HELENA
AUGUSTA, DAUGHTER OF KING COEL, TAKEN
FROM A ROMAN COIN ON A BACKGROUND SHOW-
ING THE ARMS OF COLCHESTER, A CROSS BE-
TWEEN CROWNS

*Bas-Relief by Mr. James E. Kelly. Loaned by
Mr. Alphaeus P. Cole, the Artist, in
whose possession it is*

COLE

200—1920 A.D.

By JULIETTE ARDEN

(Daughter of HENRY ARDEN and JULIETTE COLE)

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The author begs to acknowledge indebtedness to Mr. James E. Kelly, the sculptor; Mr. Alphaeus P. Cole, the artist; Mr. Henry R. Drowne, Secretary of the Sons of the Revolution, and the artist photographer, Mr. A. B. Bogart, for very helpful suggestions and kindly aid in the compilation of this little book.

INSCRIPTION

*A tribute to those
Who are gone;
An inspiration to those
Who are to come.*

“COLE 200 TO 1920”

CHAPTER I.

COLE PATRIOTS, LEADERS IN ENGLISH HISTORY.

Old King Cole.

Throngs of visitors have come and gone through Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Cole's Hill has been pointed out to them. But few had the slightest idea of what a story of romance and tragedy lay behind that name in the past centuries; nor of how that story had to do with the history of England.

All children have heard the ancient rhyme of “Old King Cole,” which runs:

“Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he.
He called for his pipe and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his fiddlers three.”

Where did the rhyme have its origin? None seemed to know. It is due to that query made by a group of people about a year ago that the real facts about the Cole family were revealed.

Down through the history of England and Britain the hunt went until it had covered nearly eighteen centuries. It was found that the origin of the name Cole, in ancient Mythology, is from Cou-el or Co-el, meaning heavenly, or house or region of the Deity. The name stood for priest in ancient times. It was also found that the name had assumed various forms in the passing years, to suit the whims and fancies of individuals bearing it, as, for instance, Cola, Coles or Cowles.

Old King Cole, made famous through history, was found to have ascended his throne about 238 A.D., even then an hereditary King of Britain. He reigned over that portion of territory known today as Essex and Hertfordshire, and vicinity, with his capital at Colnaeaster, formerly the Roman City of Camulodunum, and the present town of Colchester. He very shortly added to his holdings the principality of North Wales, through his

marriage to Seradwin, its heiress, a princess descended from the royal house of Eudda, whence came the line:

"Pendragon Kings of Uther's royal race,"

amongst them the celebrated King Arthur.

The wife of King Cole was the only daughter of Cadfan, son of Conan ap Eudda, King of Wales.

Three children were born to them; the eldest, Tiboen, later famous as Helena; Guala or Julia; and the third, a prince who bore the maternal family designation of Conan or Cenau ap Coel. (Rowland's *Mona Antiqua*.)

The Prince, on his father's death, retired to rule over the northern territories acquired by his mother Seradwin, which are placed by one of the historians at the wall of Antoninus. (Carte.) His career has been lost sight of to a great extent through the difficulties of the language, and the brilliant fate of his two sisters, which has taken the attention of historians since. It will be an interesting search for someone later, who knows the language and will take the time to go through all the old documents available, especially those of Wales.

Of his two sisters, one, the eldest, was destined to create a new line of Emperors of Roman territory, and the other to transmit to her descendants that imperial dignity, which, through the royal blood of the Pendragon family, descended to Cadwallader, the last British Prince of Wales of Roman descent, and then went on to the Tudors, of whom Henry the Seventh was the first, and Queen Victoria a most distinguished member. (Gibbon.)

It is in the life of Tiboen or Helena, the eldest, that we have much of interest to relate. She was educated and fitted by her father to succeed him. Beautiful and brilliant though she was, she was destined to be the storm center and target for political attack much of her life; and as such, to be the victim later of the pens of more than seventy historians, most of whom, apparently, failed to see the source of the attacks made upon her, or the reason for them. So clearly do these facts stand out before the unbiased reader of today, that one marvels at the thinness of the mists which were permitted to obscure them at all.

Concerning the much disputed point as to where Helena was born and who her parents were, the principal and vital evidence regarding her birth is to be found in the "Colchester Chronicle," preserved in that city. Ac-

2 E F F A

according to that document she was born in Colchester about 242 A.D., four years after her father became King. This testimony is universally confirmed by British historians, as well as many others too.

Helen in childhood was known by several names; the British name was Tiboen, and her surname was Lueddog. The noble name of Flavia was given to her upon her marriage to Constantius, the descendant of Vespasian, who derived it from the Emperor through his great-uncle, Claudius Gothicus. The title of Augusta was added when Helena became Empress, and by some historians she is called Flavia Julia Helena Augusta. Toward the close of her life she was called "The Prosperous" and "The Powerful." To crown her virtue and piety the religious of after ages awarded to her the veneration of a saint.

There have been many erroneous ideas afloat, in the passing years, regarding Helena as having been the only child of her parents, undoubtedly caused by the fact that she and her husband succeeded to the throne of her father, King Coel. Her beauty surpassed the beauty of any British maiden, we read in Owain's Chronicle; she had brightness of wit; eloquent speech; fascinating manners, and in knowledge of the liberal arts she surpassed all women. She was very proficient in music. Spenser in his "Faerie Queene" thus celebrates the Island Princess:

"Fayre Helena, the fairest living wight,
Who in all Godly themes and goodly praise,
Did far excell, but was most famous hight
For skill in musicke of all in her daies,
As well in curious instruments as cunninge laies."

She was deeply read in Hebrew, Greek and Latin.

Her marriage to Constantius, then only at the dawn of his rising fortunes, was brought about in a very interesting way.

Flavius Valerius Constantius, surnamed "Chlorus," was of imperial descent; his mother, Claudia, being niece of the Emperor, Claudius Gothicus. His father, a noble Lord of Illyria, was a native of Naissus, the capital of the Dardanian nation, which then consisted of a great part of Moesia, and there the childhood of Constantius was passed. (This is undoubtedly one reason for the

persistent errors made by historians regarding the place where Helena was born, many of whom claim she was born at Naissus.)

It was at Naissus, too, that Constantius, at the age of fourteen, received the orders of the Emperor Aurelian under whom he first bore arms. For these reasons the city was, in after times, embellished by the filial affection of his son, Constantine the Great, with many beautiful buildings. Aurelian never visited Britain in person, but was much in Gaul during the wars with the usurpers, and Constantius was there too. Three years after Aurelian's accession, when Zenobia and Tetricus were being paraded in Rome in the triumphal procession of Aurelian, Constantius was distinguishing himself, and obtained a great victory for the Romans at Vindomessa in Switzerland. He was afterwards known as "The Conqueror of Spain." He was received into the body-guard of Probus. On the defeat of Bonassus and Proculus, by a singular coincidence, we find Constantius, Carus, Diocletian and Maximian walking together in triumphal procession into the Roman capital, each of whom afterwards became an Emperor. Constantius was placed in command of a legion and made Tribune, and the Emperor Carus, who made him Governor of Dalmatia, had serious thoughts of naming him his successor instead of his worthless son.

After Carinus and Numericus, the two sons of Carus, the empire passed to Diocletian, A.D. 284. It was to oppose Carinus that Diocletian first created Maximian, Cæsar; he later, after the death of the Emperor, made him his own partner and colleague in the imperial dignity, A.D. 286. (Butler; Gibbon.)

It is necessary that this should be made as clear as possible in order to show what part King Coel later played in the same succession of events.

We have Platina as authority that, just about this time, Constantius obtained a great victory over Probus in Gaul, when several thousand German mercenaries were slain, through his bravery in renewing the fight after an unsuccessful engagement; in consequence of which peace was restored to the province. About the same time, A.D. 281, Maximian Hercules is said to have made himself master of Britain. Diocletian sent Maximian into Gaul

to quell an insurrection about 290, two years before the creation of Constantius and Galerius as Cæsars, and he was afterwards created Augustus by Diocletian.

It was during the wars of the Empire against the usurpers in Gaul that Constantius paid his first visit to Britain. One of the most formidable enemies of Rome at this period was Carausius, a man of bravery, but of mean birth. He was employed by the Empire to guard the frontiers of Britain against invasion. Maximian, associated with Diocletian at this time, ordered that he be stationed at Boulogne. Soon finding, however, that he had turned his power to his own advantage, he ordered that he be put to death. Carausius escaped to Britain, where, having many followers, he assumed the purple, and had himself proclaimed Emperor. Maximian was powerless to contend with him without a fleet. Meantime Carausius boldly had a medal struck associating himself with Diocletian and Maximian, of which the legend was, "The peace of the three Augusti." After several years Allectus was sent to reduce him to submission to the Empire, but he turned traitor and killed him, ruling in his own behalf three years as Augustus. The Britons finally, oppressed by his tyranny, placed themselves under the command of Asclepiodatus, who, after slaying Allectus, assumed supreme power for a time, and in his turn was doomed to fall in a contest with Coel, father of Helena.

It seems strange that, through this little book, it should be given to the writer as a duty to blast eighteen centuries of political deceit and historical misrepresentation about Old King Coel and his family. Now what was the truth about the King—his place in history, and the story of his descendants?

He was an hereditary king of Britain, with the blood of many powerful tribes in his veins, among them the Saxons. As such, he and his ancestors had been left alone for a time by the Roman invaders of the Island. From Sir James Henry Ramsay, who obtained it from Cæsar's writings, we are informed that the Britons at this time were a cultured race, although primitive, and that they had, even in those early days, a coinage of their own. From Hume we learn that they had that admixture of Saxon blood which established the foundation of law and

order in Britain, and was, indeed, the foundation of England's after laws.

The Roman Emperor, after the death of Asclepiodatus due to King Coel, saw his opportunity to proceed against the King, and to that end sent troops under the command of Constantius Chlorus to besiege his capital, Colnaecester, with all the power of the Roman Empire behind him. It is a matter for wonder that the King was able to withstand the siege for three years; a siege which, in the end, was settled between them by the King pledging the hand of his eldest daughter, Helena, in marriage to the General, who afterwards succeeded him on his throne. We are told that Constantius Chlorus "espoused her with great honor."

That it was a love affair between them cannot be doubted by anyone who follows the after history of both; and we know full well the significance of the Roman son-in-law of King Coel succeeding to his throne on his death, instead of his own son, Conan ap Coel, who had to retire to his mother's inheritance in the North and in Wales, where he ruled instead.

After the death of King Coel, Constantius made his headquarters at Colchester for years, during his union with Helena. They traveled all over the empire together with their infant son, and were known as a most devoted pair. If their son, afterwards Constantine the Great, was born at Naissus, as he is reported to have been, it was because they were there at the time, it having been the birthplace of Constantius, and the place where his relatives lived.

Some years later, Constantius was appointed Military Governor of Dalmatia. At this time the Roman Empire was under Diocletian and his Associate, Maximian, whom he had appointed himself.

Constantius so distinguished himself in his government of Dalmatia that in 292 he was offered adoption by Maximian, and the title of Cæsar, on condition that he divorce Helena, and marry his stepdaughter, Theodora. At the same time, a second Cæsar was appointed, Galerius, and the territory of the Roman Empire was divided into four parts: Diocletian, being prior or Supreme Augustus, with Asia and Africa as his domain; while Maximian Herculeus was over Italy and Spain; Galerius, as Cæsar,

was over Illyria, Thrace, Macedonia and Syria, and Constantius was to have Gaul and Britain. This was a plan mapped out by Diocletian himself. (The full significance of it will be understood when one remembers that Constantius Chlorus was a very brilliant man, whose many victories had given him the title years before of "Conqueror of Spain"; whose title to the Kingdom of his father-in-law, King Coel, was beyond dispute; and his son, Constantine, the legal heir to all his father's holdings.)

We are told that Constantius would never have consented to divorce Helena, had not Helena herself urged the sacrifice for his future greatness and that of their son, she never dreaming that she would be placing her son's life in jeopardy by the act. So this beautiful character withdrew practically to a cloistered life for a time, where she afterwards became a Christian, and in the end was one of the great lights leading others to Christ. She spent the latter years of her life establishing and building churches all over the Empire, in which she was aided by her son, then Constantine the Great, and one she built on the site of the stable where Christ was born. Constantine, too, was a Christian at this time.

It was during these activities that the Empress Helena became especially famous as the finder of the cross on which Christ was crucified. The legend goes that she found it with the two others buried under a building which she had ordered torn down to facilitate the search. To decide which was the true cross, a piece of wood from each was placed against a sick person, who, while unaffected by the wood of two, was instantly healed when touched by the wood of the other. It is the emblem of this cross which appears in the arms of Colchester.

In the meantime, and to go back, her divorced husband, Constantius Chlorus, was married to Theodora, step-daughter of Maximian, by whom he had six children, sons and daughters. Almost immediately after the separation of Helena and Constantius, Maximian forced Helena to give up the training of her son, Constantine, and placed him under the domination of Galerius, her husband's rival.

Later on, he was thrown into every danger possible, and they even tried to murder him, only to see him miraculously preserved each time by the power of God,

conquering everywhere and rising ever higher—a most magnificent figure in the history of his time.

That his father, Constantius Chlorus, was never reconciled to his parting with Helena was shown in his final illness, when he sent to Galerius asking that his son, Constantine, be sent to him at once. Galerius ignored the request, but the boy, Constantine, was told of it by someone. Although watched on every side, he secretly made his plans and fled. He only managed to escape capture by those who pursued him by slaying every horse he used on his journey as he obtained another to carry him on. He reached his father just before the end, who promptly proclaimed him his successor, ignoring all of Theodora's children.

For many years afterwards, the young Constantine's life was in deadly danger from the family and adherents of his father's second wife, as well as seven rivals, but he was given the insight to escape every time, although he had to fight many battles, and to consent to many of them being put to death, before he had any peace or safety. It was during this conflict that he saw the vision of the cross in the sky, with the words "In hoc signo vinces," which caused his conversion to Christianity at once.

For many years after he became Emperor, he was accompanied on his travels by his mother, Helena, whom he loved divinely. He changed the names of many towns and places to others to do her and his father honor, and many coins were struck, too, in all parts of the Empire, for the same purpose, the Roman Empire having twenty mints in different places at that time.

So we have in Constantine the Great the grandson of Old King Cole, and the successor to his domain, as well as ultimately, through the will of God, the ruler over the entire Roman Empire. In the many descendants of the name of Cole, and its variations, we have the descendants of his three children, part of whom come from Wales.

Skipping four centuries, we come to the great Justice Cole in the time of Alfred the Great; and a little later General Cole, famous on account of his defeat of Sweyne, savage chieftain of the Danes, at Pinhoe, in 1001, fighting with the combined forces of Devon, Somerset and Dorset under his command.

Although the kings of Coel were later obscured by

history, their descendants were known to be of high antiquity and rank among the magnates of Saxon times, attested by Domesday Book, and later in the deed of King William the Conqueror given in 1070, written in the Saxon tongue, which was not translated into English until Elizabeth's reign, 1587. It remains in the custody of the Bishop of Winchester. Among the half dozen families of prominence in England greeted by name in the document were the Coles. They are spoken of as peers in the time of Edward the Confessor.

We find Sir Richard Cole Earl of the Isle of Wight in the time of Edward III., and the various branches of the family in possession of immense estates in Devon, Wiltshire, Cornwall, Somerset, Hampshire and Lincolnshire. So prominent were they in the battles to preserve England in those days that they have in their possession at the present time thirty crests and coats of arms, with many titles.

AUTHORITIES: Morant's Colchester; Baleus; Lewis; John Rous; Carte; Geoffrey of Monmouth; Warrington; Hume; Ramsay; Carew's Survey of Cornwall; Hoffman's Universal Lexicon; Gibbon; Butler; Platina; Vie de Constantine; Cæsar's Writings; Leigh's Choice Observations; Rowland's Mona Antiqua; Harding; Kennet; Baronius; Polydore; and Virgil.

This Deed of King William the
 Conquerors was written in the
 Saxon tongue 50 W. C. Ao 1070
 and was put into English Ao
 1587, 150 May Ao 270 RR. Eliza-
 bethæ, And remaynes in the
 Bishop of Winchester's custody.
 William King greetes Walke-
 selein Bishop and Hugan de
 Port, and Edward Knighte,
 Steward and Algesime, and
 Symon and Allfus Porveiour,
 and Cole, & Arderne and all the
 Barons in Hampshierr, and
 Wiltshire freindly, And know
 ye that I giue vnto St Peter
 and Walchelyne Bishop with
 all the Covent to be as free as
 Bishop Alsyme was in the Dayes
 of King Edw. and to hold and
 enioy all the priuiledges great
 and small. And I giue com-
 maundement that noe man for
 me or any other withstand or
 deny them the same, or disquiet
 that which I doe graunt in any
 wise vnto St Peter or Aacholyne
 Bishop or any his Successors.
 This is in the Inspeximus Char-
 ters of Confirmacons made to
 Richard Fox and Peter Court-
 ney Bishops of Winchester, as
 they are inrolled in the Chaun-
 cery 30 Janu. 2 H. 8 and 13
 Novemb. 4 H. 8.

FROM THE GENEALOGIES AND PEDIGREE OF SIR WILLIAM COLE
 OF ENNISKILLEN, COUNTY OF FURMANAUGH, KINGDOM OF
 IRELAND, KNIGHT, BY SIR WM. SEGAR AND W. PENSON

The Genealogie or Pedegree of the right Worshipfull and worthie Captaine Sir William Cole of the Castell of Eneskillen in the countie of Firmanaugh in the Kingdome of Ireland Knight

whose faithfully served Queene Elizabeth in her warrs of Holland and Ireland, and sithence in like manner served Kinge James, and his Ma^{tie} that now is, in eminent places and Offices as well in their Martall as Ciuill affaires and is lynceally descended of the Auncient howse of Cole of Deuon and Cornewall, wherin is sett forth the discentts lynces and branches of the Seuerall famelys of that howse and surname, together with their matches and alliances to other right Noble, worthie and worshipfull families, their Armes and Ensignes : Carefully Collected out of ; and proued by diuers Records, Deedes, Wills, Euidences, Inquisicons, Monuments, Roles, and the Visitations and Bookes of the Office of Armes at London and other authentick authorities, and as hereunder followeth Exemplified this XXXth day of July in the Sixt yeare of the Raigne our dread Soueraigne Lord Charles by the grace of God Kinge of Greate Brittain France and Ireland defender of the faith &c A^o Dⁿⁱ 1630.

(FROM THE GENEALOGIES AND PEDIGREE OF SIR WM. COLE OF ENNISKILLEN, COUNTY
OF FURMANAUGH, KINGDOM OF IRELAND, KNIGHT

Cole was a noble mon, and gret power hadde on honde,
Erle he was of Colchestre here in this londe,
And Colchestre after ys name y clepud ys ich understoode.

Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle, p. 82, as quoted
in Wright's *History of Essex*, Vol. 1. p. 32.

CHAPTER II.

BOTH SIDES OF RELIGIOUS FIGHT.

Nor did they escape a prominent part in the religious persecutions of England in the Middle Ages. They had representation on both sides.

Henry Cole, living from 1510 to 1597, on the Roman Catholic side, was educated at Oxford, and in 1554 became Canon of Westminster, Provost of Eton College and seven days later of Oxford College. He was commanded by Queen Mary to prepare the sermon to be delivered at the burning of Archbishop Cramer, for which he was severely censured. He became Dean of St. Paul's in 1556, and as delegate of Cardinal Pole was present at the burning of Bucer and Fagius. He was raised to the highest rank.

He was selected among other Roman Catholic Divines to argue with a like number of Protestants before a large company, and for remarks made at that time was fined and committed to the Tower June 10, 1560, where he is supposed to have remained a prisoner until his death in 1597.

On the other side we find William Cole, Protestant president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, for many years. He was a native of Lincolnshire, received his B.A. in 1548; M.A. in 1552, and was made president of Corpus Christi College. On the accession of Queen Mary in 1553 he was forced to flee with others to Zurich, Switzerland. While in exile he, in company with Cloverdale, Whittingham, Gilby and Sampson, made the revision of the Holy Scriptures known as the Geneva Bible.

William Cole was reinstated by Queen Elizabeth as president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, July 19, 1560, she having to break down the gates to accomplish it, so Roman Catholic in its sympathies had it become during the reign of Mary. He remained president of the college until 1598, when he was made Dean of Lincoln. He died in 1600, and is buried in the Cathedral Church.

ENNISKILLEN.



COAT OF ARMS OF THE EARL OF
ENNISKILLEN

CHAPTER III.

REIGN OF KING JAMES.

So we arrive at the time of King James, when the thrones of Scotland and England became one, and the family of Cole, so powerful for centuries, was loaded with additional honors and estates. At this time Sir William Cole was established in Ireland by the King and given immense estates at Enniskillen. He and his descendants were afterwards created Baron Mount Florence, Viscount and Earl of Enniskillen and Baron Grinstead; F.R.S., D.C.L., F.S.S., being the titles held by the present head of the family, Lord Cole. The Barony of Ranelagh was also conferred upon them, but became extinct.

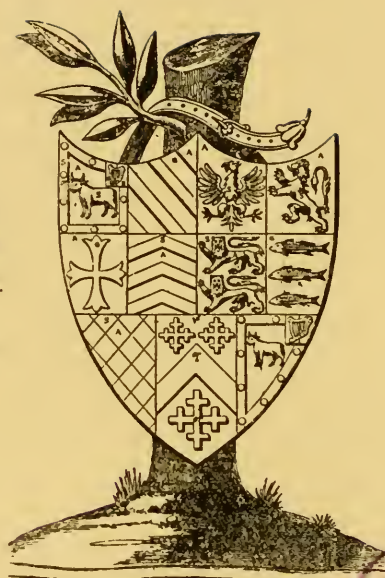
Sir Nicholas Cole of Branspeth was Governor of Newcastle during the reign of King James.

James Cole, a younger son of Sir William Cole of Enniskillen, the namesake and favorite of the King, about the time of the first Pilgrim settlement at Plymouth, Mass., was given a grant by the King to most valuable land there. He was destined later to become the head of the American branch of the family.

Not until after the King's death, however, was any move made by James even to visit Plymouth. He then resided at Highgate, a suburb of London, where he was especially known for his love of flowers. In 1624 he made a most interesting marriage to Mary, the daughter of the famous Dr. Matthieu de Lobel, also residing at Highgate, physician at all the Courts of Europe, and special physician to William of Orange, and later to King James. He was the son of a well-known lawyer, Jean de Lobel of Lille.

Nor was his fame as a doctor all that he had achieved at that time, for he was known all over the world for many books, not only on medicine but also on floriculture, and he had very beautiful gardens around his house at Highgate. The *Lobelia* has its name from him, who first discovered its medicinal qualities.

- 1 Cole.
- 2 Bodrugan.
- 3 Scott.
- 4 Stapleton.
- 5 Truaneer.
- 6 Archdeacon.
- 7 Koch.
- 8 Koch.
- 9 Heccomb.
- 10 Croft.
- 11 Cole.



The quartered Coats to be borne by the surviving issue of
 Sir William Cole Knight and dame Susan his Wife.





THE SEAL



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FIRST SETTLEMENT ON LEYDEN STREET, PLYMOUTH, MASS., 1622

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CHAPTER IV.

MOVE TO AMERICA.

Between 1630 and 1633, James Cole and his wife with their children, James Jr. and Hugh, came to America to settle, years after the death of King James.

Every effort was made not to interfere with the Pilgrim settlement, but their grant was a troublesome affair, which in the end had to be adjusted by the Courts. They built their home on the hill just back of the rock landing place, overlooking the Bay, since known as Cole's Hill. It was a little north of Leyden Street, on which the houses of the early settlers had been built. Two other children, John and Mary, were born there.

James Cole established the Inn, probably the first in New England, on Leyden Street. In 1636, the Courts allowed him ten acres of land, three of which were on the "south side of Leyden Street, from Warren to the westerly line of the lot opposite the Universalist Church." (Undoubtedly the land immediately around the Inn.) In 1637, he was allowed seven acres surrounding his house. (Cole's Hill.) In 1641, fifty acres additional were given him, and still more in 1642. (In the Lakenham meadow district.) In 1662, a grant at Secconet Neck; and in 1665, thirty acres on the south side of the Nanuet River.

For many years, he and his eldest son, James Jr., kept the Inn. In 1668 he sold out to his son, who continued to run it until 1698. There is no record of the death or burial place of either James Cole or his wife, Mary.

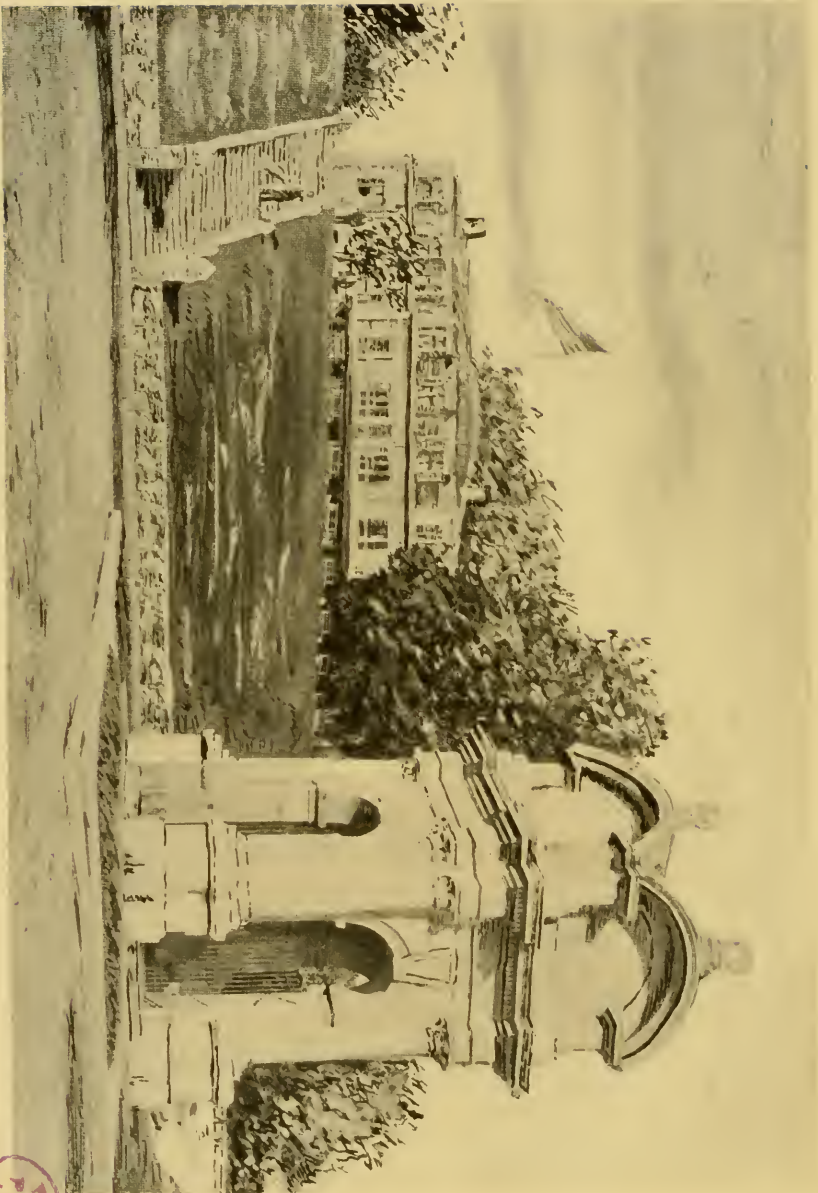
His children and grandchildren intermarried with those of the original settlers, four of the daughters of James Jr. marrying Elkanah Cushman, Nathan and Thomas Howland and Elisha Bradford.

The sons, meantime, had helped to establish settlements at Swansea and Bridgewater. In 1667, Hugh Cole with seventeen others, among them Constant Southworth, Thomas Willetts, afterwards first English Mayor of New York, Josias Winslow, Capt. James Cudworth, John Coggeshall and his brother, John Cole, purchased

of King Philip, the Indian Chief, all the marsh and meadow land of Mettapisett—about 500 acres. They named it Swansea. It was on the east side of Cole's River, now known as the Swansea River. (It comprised the present towns of Swansea and Somerset, Mass., and Barrington and Warren in Rhode Island.) Just eight years after it was founded it was the scene of a dreadful Indian massacre by some of King Philip's tribe in which many of the settlers lost their lives, and all had to flee. The Indians afterward burned the houses. All would have been killed had it not been for the love of King Philip for Hugh Cole, whom he secretly warned of the danger at the last minute, declaring "he could no longer hold his men back." The Selectmen of Swansea from 1669 to 1675 were: James Brown, Nicholas Tanner, John Allen, Hugh Cole, Samuel Luther, Thomas Lewis, Benjamin Alby and John Butterworth. 1675 was the year of the massacre.

After the death of James Jr., his eldest son John occupied the residence on Cole's Hill, which was turned over by him about 1725 with the hope that it would ultimately be made into a national park to protect the famous rock and landing place. That hope seems about to be realized.

In the meantime tablets have been let into the face of Cole's Hill commemorating the deaths of the first settlers during those years, and a stone canopy has been built over the rock to protect it from the vandalism of souvenir hunters.



COLE'S HILL ON PLYMOUTH BAY—SITE OF RESIDENCE OF JAMES COLE
IN PART, THE OLD HOUSE (NORTHEAST END)



CHAPTER V.

THE ANTECEDENTS OF JAMES COLE.

There would perhaps always have been a mystery as to which branch of the Cole family James Cole belonged, had the knowledge not been passed down from generation to generation through the James Jr. descendants, who, after five generations in Plymouth, settled in Western Massachusetts and in New York. To Consider 3d and his wife, who was his first cousin, the daughter of Elijah Cole, the line was perfectly known, and they were born in the latter part of the eighteenth century, Consider Cole living to be eighty-nine. Through all the years they had lived in close communion here with the descendants of one of the Sanderson family of Castle Sanderson, County Cavan, Ireland, which adjoins Fermanagh, where Enniskillen is located; the same Sanderson family into which Sir John Cole of Enniskillen had married nearly three hundred years ago. We find the Sandersons in 1886, then almost extinct here, mentioned especially in the press notices of the golden wedding celebration of William Cole (son of Consider 3d) and his wife Cynthia Jackson as follows: "Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Sanderson were the only people present who were at the wedding fifty years ago." The line of Sandersons is now extinct here, as is the William Cole line, except through daughters and their descendants.

The James Cole family might never have come to America at all if King James had lived longer. The changed conditions in England brought about by his death, especially in the Court circles, due to the pro-Catholic tendencies of King Charles, and his marriage to a Roman Catholic, together with the renewal of religious persecutions there, were undoubtedly deciding factors in their removal here. Not only that, but as the younger son of his family, after the death of King James, he stood very slight chance of favors at home.

The discrepancies in the records abroad may be either accidental or intentional on the part of those compiling them, for in those days anyone who went to America

was very easily lost sight of by their families, for obvious reasons. The distance was so great, too, as to sever communication between them usually after a short time. Indeed, no proper official record of even births and deaths was kept in England prior to 1837.



Horace Cole

PROMINENT IN THE LEATHER SWAMP, NEW YORK CITY,
EARLY PART OF NINETEENTH CENTURY



CHAPTER VI.

THE COLES IN WAR AND IN PEACE.

Seventy-eight pages of the Revolutionary Records at Washington tell of the sacrifice of the Cole family in that conflict. The story is told of Lieutenant Cole, on Washington's Staff, who with his Indian guide was tomahawked in the wilderness on his way with despatches from Washington in New York, to the army in Boston.

Nor did their loyalty and service to America end with the Revolution, for we find them active in all the wars since, and especially so in the last great war, when many of the officers and men from all parts of the country bore the name. Notable among them Brig.-General C. H. Cole, in command of the New England Division; and Major Edward Cole, in command of a section of the famous Marines at Château Thierry, of whose supreme sacrifice as well as that of his men, I beg to be permitted to bear record here in the words of private Frank Dameron, of Wharton, Texas, one of the few who survived:

"We went all through the great battle of June first to fourteenth. It was by night and by day against fresh successive waves of the enemy. Between repelling attacks the marines dozed where they stood. They seized an hour's sleep now and then to be awakened by the vicious singing of enemy machine guns.

"A thousand men under Major Edward Cole charged twelve machine guns. Major Cole died from the wounds he received in the last moments of the engagement. Six of the machine gun crews were annihilated. Only a few of the others escaped death. All the Huns were captured.

"It was this action that led the Germans to believe that the marines were either crazy or pure devils. Never had machine guns been attacked in such a manner. The Americans ran directly toward them, and then circled to the rear of each gun, and overpowered the crew."

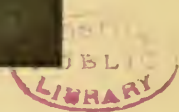
The Coles in America are now all over the country in large numbers, and we find them as founders of many towns, Newport, R. I., among them, where Coggeshall

Avenue bears testimony to their presence. We find them in the Back Bay in Boston today, and in the leather swamp in New York in the past, where men grew rich.

A story is told of one William Cole who just escaped being one of the great millionaire land-owners of New York through the home-sickness of his bride, who was a granddaughter of Colonel Jackson of Boston. They came to New York about 1834, he to join his Uncle in business, already a rich man in the leather swamp. With unusual sagacity he purchased a farm which he located in later years as on the site of the old reservoir at Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue.. He rode on horseback to and from the leather swamp each day. His bride spent the days crying her eyes out because she was separated from her family and friends. She finally prevailed upon him to part with the farm and return to Massachusetts.



KATE LANE, FAMOUS FOR HER WIT AND BEAUTY ABOUT 1860—DAUGHTER OF JOTHAM AND EMMELINE COLE LANE; WIFE OF JAMES COGGESHALL OF NEW YORK AND NEWPORT, JUNIOR PARTNER OF BROWN BROS., BANKERS, AND VESTRYMAN OF OLD ST. GEORGE'S, STUYVESANT SQUARE



The Author;

Juliette Cole (Mrs. Henry Arden);

William Cole;

Consider Cole, 3d;

Consider Cole, 2d;

Consider Cole;

Joseph Cole;

John Cole, Jr.;

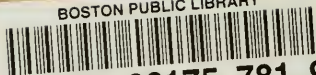
John Cole;

James Cole, Jr.;

James Cole;

Sir Wm. Cole, of Enniskillen.

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